

CHARTER

Inter-agency Working Group Standards, Practices and Protocols

Subcommittee on Forensic Science Committee on Science National Science and Technology Council

A. Designation

The Inter-agency Working Group for Standards, Practices and Protocols (IWG SPP) of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science (Subcommittee) is hereby established.

B. Background

The Charter of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science, Committee of Science (COS), National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), was enacted on July 7, 2009. The Subcommittee on Forensic Science will advise and assist the COS and the NSTC and other coordination bodies of the Executive Office of the President on policies, procedures and plans related to forensic science in the national security, criminal justice, and medical examiner/coroner systems at the local, state and federal levels.

C. Functions

In support of the Subcommittee's efforts, the IWG SPP will convene with the purpose of exchanging views, information, and advice relating to the management and implementation of Federal programs relating to forensic science that are established pursuant to statutes that share intergovernmental responsibilities or administration. Such statutes include, but are not limited to, 42 U.S.C 14132 and the Justice for All Act. In pursuing its mandate, the IWG SPP will focus in particular on issues relating to forensic science standards, practices, and protocols.

Examples of the work the IWG SPP may undertake include, but are not limited to:

- Identify Standards Development Organizations (SDOs).
- Inventory existing standards/best practices/guidelines/protocols, including those relating to identification, collection, preservation, analysis, evaluation, comparison, interpretation, terminology, and reporting.
 - Recommend processes for conducting a gap analysis, improving existing standards and protocols, and developing new standards and protocols where needed.

D. Organization

The IWG SPP's co-chairs, executive secretary, and voting members shall be federal employees. In addition, state, local, and/or tribal elected officers (or their designated employees with authority to act on their behalf), and only such officers or employees, shall be invited to participate in the IWG SPP as members in an advisory capacity. The IWG SPP shall communicate its findings to the Subcommittee as requested. The IWG SPP shall, as appropriate, outreach to and obtain input from forensic science and criminal justice organizations; state, local, and private practitioners; and other stakeholders.

E. Termination

The IWG SPP shall terminate concurrently with the Subcommittee on Forensic Science.

F. Approval

In my capacity as Co-chair of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science, I hereby determine that the formation of the Inter-agency Working Group for Standards, Practices and Protocols is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.



Kenneth E. Melson
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives



Mark Stolorow
Director
Office of Law Enforcement Standards
National Institute of Standards and Technology